Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 XMB-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:DPIERCE:BABS APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER LA/CAR:JPLOCKARD ARA/ECP:RTAYLOR EXIM BANK:RDCRAFTON (PHONE)

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O R 171842Z SEP 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN AMEMBASSY NASSAU AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINR, JM, US, UK

SUBJECT: AGEE'S STATEMENTS ON EXIM BANK

REF: KINGSTON 3860

- $1. \ \ FOLLOWING \ BACKGROUND \ PROVIDED \ BY EXIM BANK \ STAFF \\ FOR \ EMBASSY'S \ INFORMATION.$
- 2. EXIM BANK PROGRAMS INCLUDE SUPPLIER CREDITS RELATED TO TRADE AND DIRECT CREDITS RELATED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS, WHICH IN JAMAICA OFTEN INVOLVE THE GOJ. AS OF JULY 31, 1976, EXIM BANK'S EXPOSURE IN JAMAICA WAS APPROXIMATELY DOLS 11 MILLION IN SUPPLIER CREDITS AND APPROXIMATELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOLS 112 MILLION IN DIRECT CREDITS. A SIZEABLE PERCENT-

AGE OF EXIM BANK'S EXPOSURE HAS BEEN EXTENDED WITHIN THE LAST 2-3 YEARS, AND TOTAL EXPOSURE IS NOW SUBSTANTIALLY (ABOUT 50 PERCENT) HIGHER THAN IT WAS 3 YEARS AGO.

3. THE A-B-C-D "RATING SYSTEM" RELATED TO 4 DIFFERENT "BASE RATES" WHICH ARE APPLIED ONLY TO SUPPLIER CREDITS (LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF CURRENT JAMAICAN EXPOSURE). THE LETTER DESIGNATION WAS ABANDONED IN DECEMBER 1975, A FEW DAYS AFTER EXIM DIRECTORS CHANGED THE RATE FOR

JAMAICA FROM "B" TO "C" ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THEIR LATIN AMERICAN STAFF DURING A ROUTINE QUARTERLY REVIEW. THE RECOMMENDATION WAS BASED ON STAFF PERCEPTION THAT THE RISKS OF COMMERCIAL TRADE WITH JAMAICA HAD INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE LAST REVIEW. JAMAICA HAD NEVER BEEN RATED "A", AND SUPPLIERS ARE CURRENTLY CHARGED THE THIRD BEST OF THE FOUR "BASE RATES." INTEREST RATES FOR DIRECT CREDITS ARE PROJECT RATHER THAN COUNTRY SPECIFIC AND ARE IDENTICAL WORLDWIDE FOR SIMILAR KINDS OF PROJECTS, DEPENDING UPON THE TOTAL CREDIT PERIOD.

4. WHILE EXIM BANK HAS IN FACT SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED ITS EXPOSURE IN JAMAICA, THERE HAVE BEEN FEWER JAMAICAN APPLICATIONS FOR DIRECT CREDIT IN PAST YEAR THAN IN EACH OF THE PRECEDING 2 YEARS. THIS REDUCTION IN APPLICATIONS APPARENTLY REFLECTS GOJ DECISIONS TO LIMIT IMPORTS RATHER THAN ANY GOJ REACTION TO EXIM BANK POLICIES. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: INFORMATION CONTROL, CREDIT AGREEMENTS, DEVELOPMENT BANKS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE230820

Document Number: 1976STATE230820
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPIERCE:BABS Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A Film Number: D760352-0056

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760947/aaaabnyk.tel Line Count: 90

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ORIGIN ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Classification: Limited Official Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 KINGSTON 3860 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 07 JUL 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: AGEE'S STATEMENTS ON EXIM BANK
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINR, BBAK, JM, US, UK, XMB, (AGEE, PHILIP)

To: KINGSTON

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006